

County Snapshot

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Situated northeast of San Francisco, **Contra Costa County** is bounded by San Francisco and San Pablo bays, with Alameda County to the south and San Joaquin County to the east. While there is a tremendous amount of growth and development in Contra Costa County, much is still rural with an abundance of open space providing many recreational opportunities.

Contra Costa County is one of the fastest growing counties in the San Francisco Bay Area with its population projected to reach 1,104,700 persons by 2020.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for Contra Costa County to be 489,300 with an unemployment rate of 3.0 percent. This is significantly lower than the State's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent.

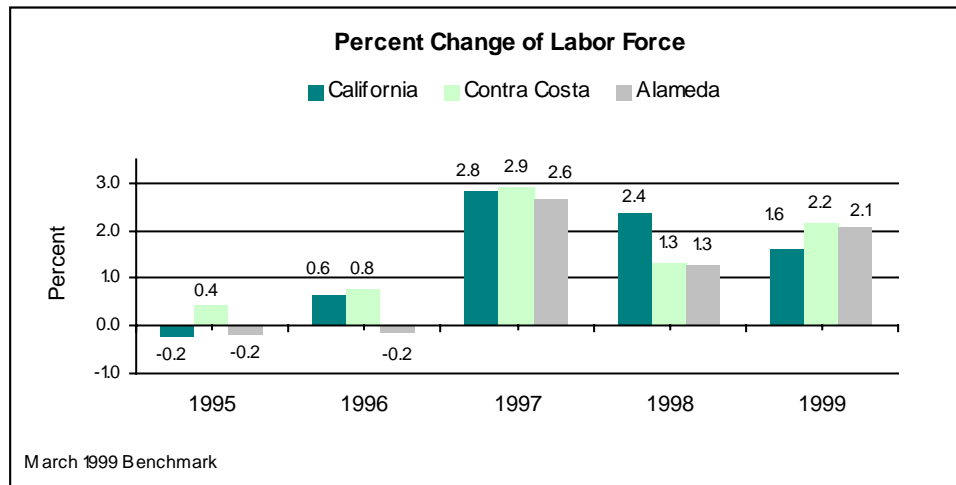
The services sector accounts for 32.9 percent of the employment in the county while the retail trade sector provides about 18.8 percent of the jobs. Another significant industry sector is government at 14.2 percent. Manufacturing reversed a declining employment trend with an increase of 500 jobs in 1998.

The services industry is also a significant economic factor for Contra Costa because the seven-year projected growth rate is 35.9 percent with over half the growth concentrated in the business services sector. Retail trade is expected to grow 18.7 percent adding 10,500 jobs and the finance, insurance and real estate sector is projected to add 6,000 jobs.

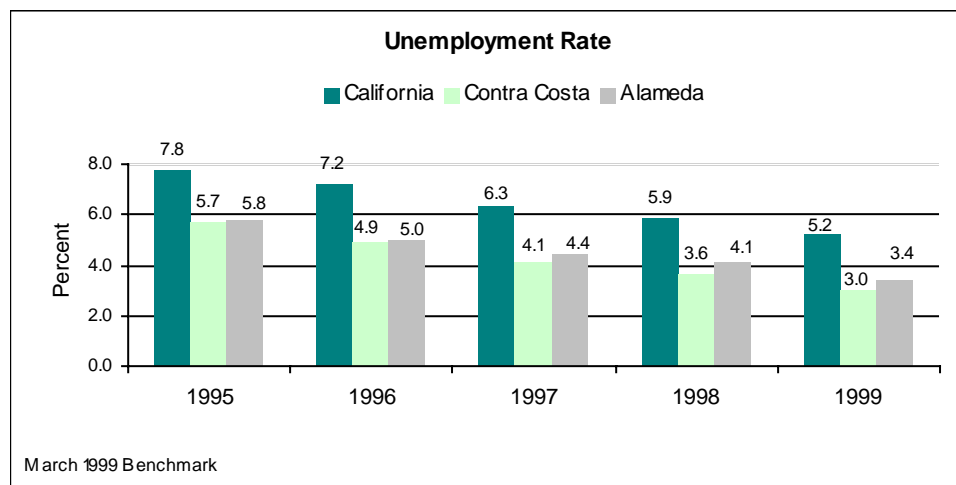
Contra Costa County's labor market conditions have been steadily improving over the last five years. The county continues to record job growth and lower unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

From 1995 to 1999, Contra Costa sustained a positive growth trend each year with a high of 2.9 percent in 1997. Over this period, the cumulative growth in the civilian labor force in Contra Costa is 7.3 percent. Neighboring Alameda County also rebounded in 1997 with 2.6 percent growth and the state's civilian labor force increased by 2.8 percent for the same year.

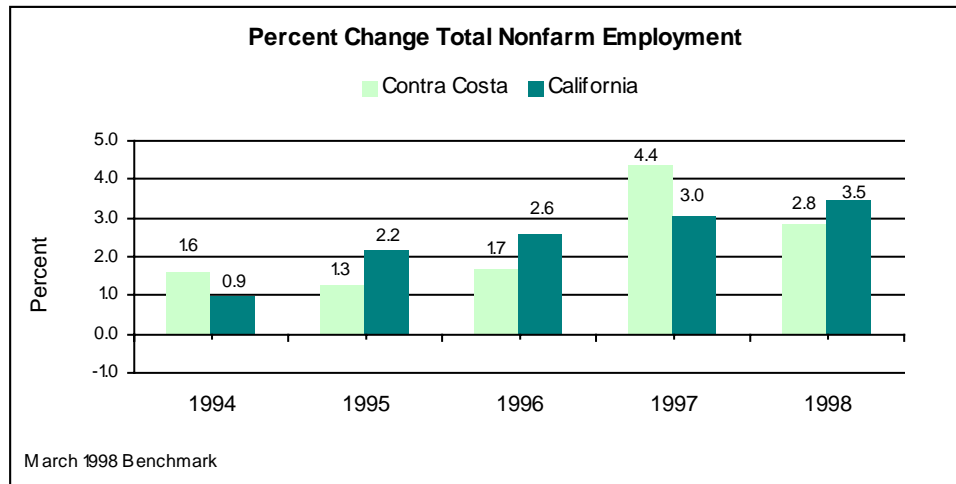


Since 1995, unemployment rates have declined for Contra Costa and neighboring Alameda County indicative of the employment opportunities in the area. For Contra Costa County, the annual average unemployment rate dropped 2.7 percentage points from a high of 5.7 percent in 1995 to 3.0 percent in 1999.

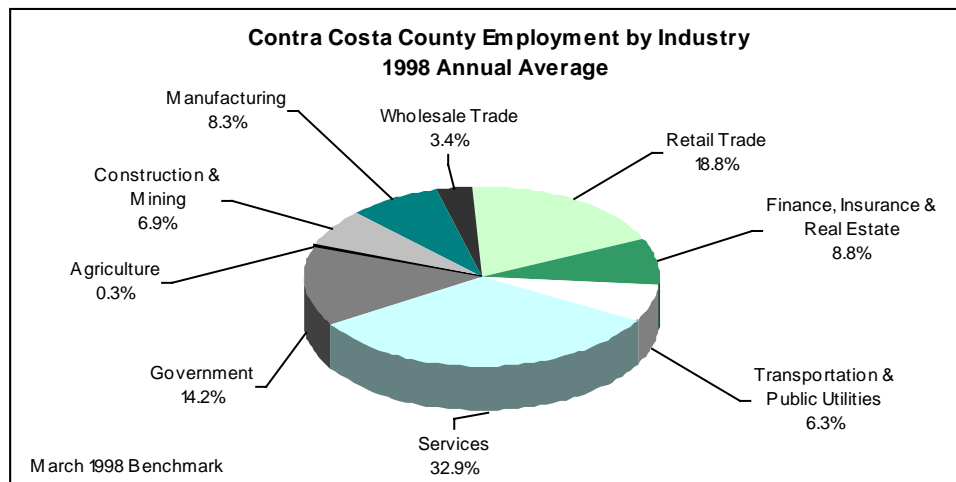


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Job growth creates opportunity and is considered to be one measure of economic health. Contra Costa's nonfarm wage and salary employment has shown strong growth since 1994. Payroll employment in 1998 grew by 8,800 jobs or 2.8 percent. Job growth in the services sector accounted for 71.6 percent of that growth with a large concentration in business services.



In 1998, Contra Costa's employment was dominated by the services, retail trade and government sectors. During the forecast period of 1995 – 2002, it is expected that 76 percent of the job growth will be in services, finance, insurance and real estate and in retail trade sectors.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Contra Costa County is projected to have employment opportunities not only in these high turnover occupations but also in the more technologically advanced categories.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 35.9%
	General Managers, Top Executives – 1220 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$38.78
	Secretaries General - 1110 job openings. Do many types of jobs to help run an office including, helping managers and workers make sure the office runs smoothly. Post Secondary Vocational Education. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.27
	General Office Clerks – 1060 job openings. Performs a wide variety of tasks. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with office procedures and may include a combination of bookkeeping, typing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$11.57
	Laborers, Landscaping / Groundskeeping – 920 job openings. Maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. May work in nursery facility or at customer location. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks including, sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, and sprinkler installation. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.83
	Receptionists, Information Clerks – 810 job openings. Answer inquiries and obtain information for the general public concerning activities conducted at an establishment, such as the location of offices or persons within the firm, departments within the store, or services within the hotel. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.48
Associated Occupations	Finance, Insurance and Real Estate 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 22.5%
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager, Clerical ADM SUP – 460 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of clerical and administrative support workers. Managers / Supervisors are generally found in smaller establishments where they perform both supervisory and management functions. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.57
	Financial Managers - 340 job openings. Plan, organize, direct, control, or coordinate the financial activities of an organization. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$32.40
	General Managers, Top Executives - 300 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$38.78
	Property and Real Estate Managers - 290 job openings. Primary link between the property owner or property management firm and the tenant. Oversee day to day management of income-producing commercial and residential properties and manage the common property of condominium associates. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.29
	Loan Officers and Counselors – 270 job openings. Evaluate, authorize, or recommend approval of commercial or real estate loans and credit loans or advise borrowers on financial status and methods of payments. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$18.86
Associated Occupations	Retail Trade 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 18.7%
	Salespersons, Retail – 1440 job openings. Sell a variety of merchandise to the public. They assist the customer in making selections, obtain or receive the merchandise, total the bill, receive the payment, operate a cash register, and make change for the customer. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.07
	Cashiers - 1250 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties in many kinds of businesses. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.92
	Waiters and Waitresses - 1100 job openings. Work in restaurants, hotel or motel dining rooms, coffee shops, diners, or other places where food and drinks are served. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.04
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales – 500 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.03
	Food Preparation Workers - 490 job openings. Perform a variety of food preparation duties, such as preparing cold foods and maintaining and cleaning kitchen work areas, equipment, and utensils. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.66

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
State of California
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Labor Market Information Division
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